

(5) [(7)] the defense economic readjustment zone program established under Chapter 2310;

(6) [(8)] the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community grant program established under Section 481.025; and

(7) [(9)] the renewal community program.

SECTION 4. Section 39.909(a), Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In this section, “small business” and “historically underutilized business” have the meanings assigned by *former* Section 481.191, Government Code, *as that section existed on January 1, 2015*.

SECTION 5. Section 52.256(a), Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In this section, “small business” and “historically underutilized business” have the meanings assigned by *former* Section 481.191, Government Code, *as that section existed on January 1, 2015*.

SECTION 6. (a) The Texas Economic Development Bank shall reject any application for a linked deposit loan submitted to the bank before the effective date of this Act for which a linked deposit has not been made in accordance with Subchapter N, Chapter 481, Government Code, as that subchapter existed immediately before being repealed by this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of Subchapter N, Chapter 481, Government Code, Subchapter N is continued in effect for the limited purpose of allowing the Texas Economic Development Bank to administer linked deposits made before the effective date of this Act and to pursue the bank’s remedies under that subchapter if:

(1) a recipient of a loan to which a deposit is linked defaults on the loan; or

(2) a lending institution that makes a loan for which a linked deposit is made fails to comply with that subchapter.

SECTION 7. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Economic Development Bank shall send to the comptroller for deposit in the general revenue fund any revenue or other money of the Texas Small Business Industrial Development Corporation held in financial institutions as provided by Section 503.055, Local Government Code, as that section existed immediately before that section’s repeal by this Act.

SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 5, 2015: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN EMERGENCY
RESPONSE PERSONNEL FOR PURPOSES OF THE TEXAS
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION ACT**

CHAPTER 365

H.B. No. 2771

AN ACT

relating to employment activities of certain emergency response personnel for purposes of the Texas Workers’ Compensation Act.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 401, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section

401.026 to read as follows:

Sec. 401.026. APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL. For purposes of this subtitle, the travel of a firefighter or emergency medical personnel en route to an emergency call is considered to be in the course and scope of the firefighter's or emergency medical personnel's employment.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 28, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting;
passed by the Senate on May 22, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR STATE AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS AND EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 366

H.B. No. 3337

AN ACT

relating to training and education for state agency administrators and employees.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 656.043, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 656.043. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "state agency" means a department, agency, or institution of *the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of [this] state government*, including an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

SECTION 2. Section 656.047, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 656.047. PAYMENT OF PROGRAM EXPENSES. (a) *Except as provided by this section or other law, a [A] state agency may spend public funds as appropriate to pay the salary, tuition and other fees, travel and living expenses, training stipend, expense of training materials, and other necessary expenses of an instructor, student, or other participant in a training or education program.*

(b) For an administrator or employee of a state agency who seeks reimbursement for a training or education program offered by an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, the agency may only pay the tuition expenses for a program course successfully completed by the administrator or employee at an accredited institution of higher education.

SECTION 3. Section 656.048, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) A state agency shall adopt rules requiring that before an administrator or employee of the agency may be reimbursed under Section 656.047(b), the executive head of the agency must authorize the tuition reimbursement payment.

SECTION 4. Section 656.101, Government Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1) "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section 656.043.

(1-a) "State ~~and "state~~ employee" has the meaning ~~[have the meanings]~~ assigned by Section 572.002 ~~[except that the terms do not include a river authority or an employee of a river authority].~~

SECTION 5. Section 656.102, Government Code, is amended to read as follows: